

REMARKS

As an initial matter, the Examiner has not acknowledged the claim for foreign priority and has not confirmed receipt of the priority document. The PTO's PAIR website indicates that the PTO has received the priority document. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge the claim for foreign priority and confirm receipt of the foreign priority document.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings, indicating that Figs. 3 and 4 should be labeled as prior art. In response, Applicant has labeled these figures accordingly.

The Examiner has objected to dependent claims 6 and 7, alleging minor informalities. In response, Applicants have amended these claims.

Claims 1-11 are all of the pending claims. New claims 9-11 have been added. Claim 1 is the only independent claim.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and §103

Claims 1-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated over Sato et al. (US 6,547,608). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sato.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection at least because Sato does not teach or suggest all of the claim's recitations. For example, Sato does not teach or suggest the claimed female terminal in which, when said resilient contact piece portion is resiliently deformed upon insertion of a male terminal, said convex portion is brought

into contact with said bottom wall, so that a front side part of said resilient contact piece portion is spaced from said bottom wall with a clearance.

Sato discloses at Fig. 8C, a female terminal having a bottom wall 8c, contact piece portion 3C that extends rearwardly from a front edge 11C. *See* Sato at Fig. 8C. A convex portion 12C at a free end of the contact piece portion 3C is in contact with the wall 8c when the male terminal is inserted into the female terminal.

Accordingly, the convex portion 12C is not brought into contact with the wall 8C from a position spaced from the wall 8C, upon insertion of the male terminal. Instead, the convex portion 12C is always in contact with the wall 8C.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1. In addition, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of dependent claims 2-8 at least because of their dependency from claim 1.

New Claims

Moreover, Applicant has added dependent claims 9-11 in order to provide additional claim coverage. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow these claims at least because of their dependency from claim 1.

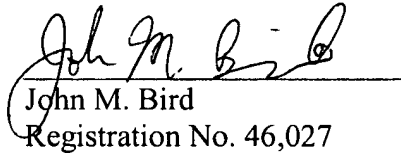
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/779,880

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicants are attaching herewith one (1) sheet of replacement drawings, which include FIGS. 3 and 4. The legend --Prior Art-- has been added to FIGS. 3 and 4. The submitted replacement drawing is intended to replace FIGS. 3 and 4 submitted on February 18, 2004 and is believed to obviate the Examiner's drawing objection.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet